



EMBASSY OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FOREIGN BROADCAST INFORMATION SERVICE
SEOUL BUREAU



MSK-5022
3 December 1985

MEMORANDUM FOR: Director, FBIS
THROUGH : Chief, Operations Group
SUBJECT : Monthly Report - Seoul Bureau - November 1985

I. GENERAL

Student discontent in the ROK, which is never far from the surface, has boiled over in the last few months in a number of well-organized radical demonstrations and sit-ins. In November and early December alone there have been at least six major student actions, three of which were specifically targeted against U.S. interests. Students have begun using the "U.S. connection" to attack ROK economic dependence on the United States and protectionist trade measures by the U.S. Government, in addition to their continuing demands for President Chun's resignation and U.S. acknowledgement of responsibility for bloody repression of rioting in Kwangju in 1980. On 4 November 14 students seized U.S. Chamber of Commerce offices in the Chosun Hotel in Seoul and held several local employees hostage. They were forcibly removed by police after a few hours, after doing a considerable amount of damage to office furniture and files. On the 13th three students armed with molotov cocktails briefly occupied the Pusan branch of the Bank of America, and on 2 December about nine students took over and threatened to burn the USIB Cultural Center in Kwangju. They were removed by force after nine hours.

Many veteran observers of Korean events believe the current spate of student protests have taken on a more destructive, violent and anti-American character than those in the past. The events are carefully organized, and student activists have developed a successful tactic of converging on a demonstration site from several directions by bus and subway, arousing no police suspicion until the last minute. A higher security fence has been installed around the Chancery compound as a result of the frequent demonstrations, and the local guard force has been increased. Embassy political officers think the level of student activism probably has peaked for the time being with the onset of cold weather, but this is by no means certain. The ROK Government is taking a very hard line toward student demonstrations; refusing to negotiate, arresting those involved, and using muscle quickly and sometimes brutally. Many people fear that this approach will only lead to greater student violence in the future.

II. OPERATIONS

Editorial/Monitorial

1. November provided a welcome respite for the Korean monitors and editorial staff. Wordage for the month was down by over 200,000 words from October's record, and was the lowest monthly total of the year. Virtually all of the decrease was in DPRK material: Pyongyang radio wordage was half of October's figure, filed KCNA wordage was down one-third, and the number of items filed was also down a third. One possible explanation for the lull in the North could be political problems within the leadership. There seemed to be far fewer leadership appearances than usual during November.

2. Wordage from the ROK papers, however, particularly the Seoul vernacular press, continued to increase. Reportage on increasing student unrest and demonstrations, more open and voluminous criticism of the United States over trade frictions, and detailed reporting on the ROK's economic difficulties accounted for much of the increase.

III. ADMINISTRATION

A. Personnel

Senior Editor [redacted] returned to work following maternity leave on 29 November. Okinawa Bureau editor [redacted] who filled in while [redacted] was on leave, returned to Okinawa on the 26th.

B. Building & Grounds

Renovation of the Bureau's operations area is nearing completion. New carpeting was laid throughout the area on two weekends during November, and new desks, file cabinets and shelf units have been delivered. After equipment racks have been reconfigured in the Main Radio room, air conditioning units will be installed in Main Radio and the editorial and communications rooms.

IV. VISITS

A. Okinawa Bureau Administrative Assistant [redacted] in Seoul on private travel, visited the Bureau on 18 November.

B. Okinawa Bureau Engineer [redacted] was in Seoul from 21-27 November on a routine inspection visit.

[redacted]
Chief, Seoul Bureau

Attachment

Monthly Production Report

cc: Chief, Okinawa Bureau
Chief, Hong Kong Bureau

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Seoul Bureau Production Report for November 1985

I. TOTALS FROM ALL SOURCES:

TOTAL PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	546900
TOTAL NON-PUBLISHABLE WORDAGE FILED DURING MONTH:	122710
TOTAL NUMBER OF PUBLISHABLE ITEMS FILED DURING MONTH:	1348

BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
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II. INPUT OF REGULAR COVERAGE:	13685.00	5510.00	127.46
(minutes or issues per week)	min.	min.	issues

III. OUTPUT FROM ALL SOURCES:
(publishable words per month)

CHINA

Beijing International service in Korean to Korea	1250	
Beijing City Service in Mandarin	1950	
Changchun Jilin Provincial Service in Mandarin	13680	
Harbin Heilongjiang Provincial Service in / Mandarin	14510	
Hohhot Nei Monggol Regional Service in Mandarin	11420	
Jinan Shandong Provincial Service in Mandarin	16500	
Shenyang Liaoning Provincial Service in Mandarin	12260	
Shijiazhuang Hebei Provincial Service in Mandarin	5850	
Tianjin City Service in Mandarin	6410	
Beijing BEIJING RIBAO in Chinese		10190
Changchun JILIN RIBAO in Chinese		900
Harbin HEILONGJIANG RIBAO in Chinese		3000
Hohhot NEIMENGGU RIBAO in Chinese		0
Jinan DAZHONG RIBAO in Chinese		7400
Shenyang LIAONING RIBAO in Chinese		850
Shijiazhuang HEBEI RIBAO in Chinese		19350

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	BROAD- CASTS	PRESS AGENCIES	PUBLI- CATIONS
○ Tianjin TIANJIN RIBAO in Chinese			6910
○ CLANDESTINE (Clandestine) Voice of National Salvation in Korean to South Korea	24770		
○ KOREA (NORTH) Pyongyang Domestic Service in Korean	112550		
○ Pyongyang Domestic Television Service in Korean	0		
○ Pyongyang KCNA in English		118980	
○ Pyongyang KULLOJA in Korean			7500
○ KOREA (SOUTH) Seoul Domestic Service in Korean	3200		
○ Seoul YONHAP in English		37210	
○ Seoul CHOSON ILBO in Korean			3940
○ Seoul CHUANGANG ILBO in Korean			3200
○ Seoul HANGUK ILBO in Korean			5500
○ Seoul KYONGHYANG SINMUN in Korean			3450
○ Seoul SEOUL SINMUN in Korean			1050
○ Seoul SINTONG-A in Korean			0
○ Seoul THE KOREA HERALD in English			48030
○ Seoul THE KOREA TIMES in English			34370
○ Seoul TONG-A ILBO in Korean			6320
○ UNION OF SOVIET SOCIALIST REPUBLICS Moscow International Service in Korean	4400		